

What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating a voting station in an electronic voting system programmed for election contests, said voting station including a display screen for displaying textual and pictorial information and a user selection means for selecting preferences of a voter, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a visual mode; and

providing an audio mode including pictorial and textual displays on a display screen, each display on the display screen corresponding to an audio prompt or to a voter selection made in response to an audio prompt.

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2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

said voter manipulating a user selection means in response to the audio prompts.

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3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a mouse for voter manipulation in response to the audio prompts.

4. The method of claim 3 further including:

audio prompts instructing the voter to input the response via right or left mouse click in accordance with the corresponding result desired by the voter.

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5. The method of claim 1 further including:

providing private listening means for transmitting audio prompts to the voter.

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6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing headphones for transmitting audio prompts to the voter.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a keyboard for receiving voter input in response to the audio  
5 prompts.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a keyboard; and

activating the keyboard for use only when a “write-in” response is desired.

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9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

activating only the necessary keys to improve accuracy of the response.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

15 providing a Braille keyboard for voter input in response to the audio prompts.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a Braille keyboard; and

activating the Braille keyboard for use only when a “write-in” response is

20 desired.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

activating only the necessary keys to improve accuracy of the response.

25 13. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing the display screen to include touch screen capability.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

disabling the touch screen capability allowing only display on the display  
5 screen corresponding to the audio prompts and the responses to the audio prompts.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

adjusting the visual display by non-visual means.

10 16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing audio prompts and visual display to both a voter and at least one  
additional person engaged to assist the voter.

17. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

15 providing audio prompts in any one of a plurality of languages.

18. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

said voter selecting audio mode.

20 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising:

providing an audio prompt to the voter to select a language for the audio  
mode.

20. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

25 a person assisting the voter in selecting audio mode.

21. The method of claim 19 further comprising:  
providing an audio prompt to the voter to select a language for the audio  
mode.

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22. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
providing an audio prompt asking the voter whether he or she would like an  
audible demonstration before voting begins.

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23. The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
providing the audio portion and text portion of the voter interface, having the  
pictorial and text display corresponding to each audio prompt, in a voter selected  
language.

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24. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
providing audio prompts asking the voter to make only one of two choices at  
each step in the voting process.

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25. The method of claim 24 further including:  
an audio prompt asking the voter to choose between proceeding or not  
proceeding.

26. The method of claim 24 further including:  
an audio prompt asking the voter to choose between choosing an option or  
25 receiving additional options.

27. The method of claim 24 further including:  
an audio prompt asking the voter to choose between confirm choices or not  
confirm choices.
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28. The method of claim 24 further including:  
an audio prompt asking the voter to provide a “write-in” response or not to  
provide a “write-in” response.
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29. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
providing the voter with an audio list of options regarding the voting format.
30. The method of claim 29 further including:  
providing the list to include the option to vote “straight ticket”.
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31. The method of claim 29 further including:  
providing the list to include the option to vote “split ticket”.
32. The method of claim 29 further including:  
providing the list to include the option to vote “mixed ticket”.
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33. The method of claim 29 further comprising:  
checking for the voter’s response to each format option.
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34. The method of claim 33 further comprising:

providing a set of audio prompts corresponding the voting format chosen by the voter.

35. The method of claim 33 further comprising:  
5 repeating the audio list of options regarding the voting format until the voter selects a format, if the voter does not select any format.

36. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
providing an audio prompt including a list of options regarding the political  
10 parties participating in the election.

37. The method of claim 36 further comprising:  
allowing the voter to select a political party; and  
checking for the voter's response.

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38. The method of claim 37 further comprising:  
repeating the list of options regarding the political parties participating in the election if the voter did not select a party; and  
allowing the voter to select a party or change the format selection.

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39. The method of claim 37 further comprising:  
providing a series of audio prompts each related to a particular political party that was previously listed.

25 40. The method of claim 39 further including:

allowing the voter to select a party;  
notifying the voter of each individual contest;  
notifying the voter of the voter's selection of party and candidate for that  
contest; and

5            providing an audio prompt allowing the voter to alter the selection for the  
individual contest.

41.        The method of claim 39 further comprising:  
providing at least one audio prompt selected from the group of audio prompts  
10        consisting of: prompts relating to the additional number of candidates that may be  
chosen for a particular contest, the remaining available candidates and corresponding  
parties, and any further non-partisan contests.

42.        The method of claim 39 further comprising:  
15        checking for the voters selection;  
instructing the voter to proceed with candidate selection or to decline to vote,  
if the voter has made no selections.

43.        The method of claim 39 further comprising:  
20        providing an audio review of the voter's selections.

44.        The method of claim 43 further comprising:  
providing audio prompts related to proposals to be voted on.

25        45.        The method of claim 32 further comprising:

providing audio information regarding each separate contest in the mixed ticket;

providing each candidate and corresponding party, each additional candidate that may be chosen for a particular contest, and the remaining available candidates  
5 and corresponding parties;

providing any further non-partisan contests; and

allowing the voter to select at least one candidate or skip that contest.

46. The method of claim 45 further comprising:  
10 checking for the voters response.

47. The method of claim 46 further comprising:  
prompting the voter to proceed with candidate selection or to decline to vote if  
the voter has made not selections.

15 47. The method of claim 45 further comprising:  
allowing the voter to make changes to the voter's selections.

48. The method of claim 47 further comprising:  
20 providing an audio review of the voter's selections.

49. The method of claim 48 further comprising:  
providing audio prompts related to proposals to be voted on.

25 50. The method of claim 1 including:



providing audio prompts related to proposals to be voted on.

51. The method of claim 50 including:

providing an audio prompt asking the voter to choose between a short or long  
5 version of the proposal.

52. The method of claim 51 including:

providing an audio prompt providing the option to skip to the end of at least  
some proposals.  
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53. The method of claim 51 including:

providing an audio prompt providing the option of voting or skipping to the  
end of the proposal.

15 54. The method of claim 51 further comprising:

providing an audio prompt providing the option of selecting a yes or no vote  
on a proposal; and  
providing an audio prompt to confirm or cancel the selection.

20 55. The method of claim 54 further comprising:

providing an audio prompt for the next proposal if there are additional  
proposals to be voted on until all voter responses on the proposals to be voted on are  
complete.

25 56. The method of claim 55 further comprising:

providing an audio prompt providing the option of audio vote review.

58. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing an audio prompt to confirm all selections made or to review  
5 the selections.

59. The method of claim 58 further comprising:

providing an audio review of selections made;  
allowing the voter to indicate that changes are desired;  
10 providing an audio review of each selection and allowing the voter to  
indicate whether the selection is to be changed; and  
returning to the audio prompts related to the contest or proposal the  
voter has selected to be changed.

15 60. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

the visual mode and the audio mode with corresponding pictorial and textual  
display unified to each utilize the same set and sequence of screen displays.

61. The method of claim 1 including:

20 operating the system in audio mode;  
said display screen presenting a slate of candidates for an elected office, each  
of said candidates being displayed as a selection item including at least a textual name  
identifier and an image;

said voter manipulating said user selection means to select a desired one of said  
25 candidates;

said display screen presenting an enlarged representation of information corresponding to said desired candidate together with a confirmation selection item and a cancel selection item in response to the selection;

said voter manipulating said user selection means to select either said  
5 confirmation selection item or said cancel selection item;

if said cancel selection item is selected, then returning to presentation of said slate of candidates;

if said confirmation selection item is selected, then progressing through remaining election contests until said voter has confirmed a selection in each election  
10 contest;

said display screen presenting all voter selections on a review screen and presenting choices to said voter to change any of said selections;

said voter confirming no further changes; and

said voting station outputting said voter selections.

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62. Software for carrying out a method of operating a voting station in an electronic voting system for election contests on a voting station including a display screen for displaying textual and pictorial information and a user selection means for selecting preferences of a voter, said software having a visual mode; and an audio  
20 mode including pictorial and textual displays on a display screen, each display on the display screen corresponding to an audio prompt or to a voter selection made in response to an audio prompt.

63. A computer readable storage media encoded with software for carrying  
25 out a method of operating a voting station in an electronic voting system for election

contests on a voting station including a display screen for displaying textual and pictorial information and a user selection means for selecting preferences of a voter, said software having a visual mode; and an audio mode including pictorial and textual displays on a display screen, each display on the display screen corresponding to an  
5 audio prompt or to a voter selection made in response to an audio prompt.

64. A method for operating a voting check-in system in an electronic voting system programmed for election contests, said voting check-in system including a display screen and a transportable medium generation unit, said method  
10 comprising the steps of:

entry of voter data;  
searching stored eligible voter information data;  
display of stored eligible voter information matching entered voter data;  
generation of a transportable medium with stored data;  
15 transmission of stored data from the transportable medium to a polling station;  
retrieval of a ballot matched to eligible voter information data utilizing the stored data on the transportable medium; and  
display of the ballot at the voting station.

20 65. The method of claim 64 further comprising:  
entry of voter data selected from the group consisting of: reading information stored on a state identification card, reading information stored on a state driver's license.

25 66. The method of claim 64 wherein the entry of voter data comprises:

providing fingerprint information and storing the fingerprint information digitally.

65. The method of claim 64 further comprising:  
5 entry of voter verification of stored eligible voter information matching entered voter data.

66. The method of claim 65 further comprising:  
signature information provided by the voter and stored digitally in response to  
10 the display of stored eligible voter information matching entered voter data.

67. The method of claim 65 further comprising:  
fingerprint information provided by the voter and stored digitally in response  
to the display of stored eligible voter information matching entered voter data.

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68. The method of claim 64 wherein generation of a transportable medium  
with stored data further comprises:  
generation of a card containing stored data.

20 69. The method of claim 68 wherein the card is a magnetic card containing stored information.

70. The method of claim 64 wherein the generation of a transportable  
medium with stored data further comprises:  
25 storing voter specific information on the card.

71. The method of claim 64 wherein the generation of a transportable medium with stored data further comprises:

storing ballot specific information on the card.

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72. The method of claim 64 wherein the generation of a transportable medium with stored data further comprises:

storing a unique number on the card.

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73. The method of claim 64 wherein transmission of stored data from the transportable medium to a polling station further comprises:

reading the stored information with a magnetic card reader.

74. The method of claim 64 wherein retrieval of a ballot matched to eligible voter information data utilizing the stored data on the transportable medium further comprises:

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retrieving the ballot information from a polling place server.

75. The method of claim 65 wherein display of the ballot at the voting station includes providing audio prompts corresponding to the matched ballot, the audio prompts suitable for a visually impaired voter allowing the voter to make selections by non-visual means.

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76. The method of claim 65 wherein eligible voter information includes voter information for a particular precinct.

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77. The method of claim 65 wherein eligible voter information includes voter information for a region extending beyond a particular precinct.

5 78. The method of claim 65 wherein eligible voter information includes voter information for at least a one county.

79. The method of claim 65 wherein eligible voter information includes voter information for at least a one state.

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80. The method of claim 65 wherein eligible voter information includes voter information for a nation.

81. The method of claim 65 further comprising entry of data to define a  
15 provisional voter if no stored information matches entry of voter data.

82. The method of claim 65 wherein entry of voter data further comprises selection of visually impaired option.

20 83. The method of claim 65 further comprising:  
display of at least one ballot.

84. The method of claim 83 further comprising:  
selection of ballot.

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86. The method of claim 65 further comprising:  
automatic generation of data reports related to voting activity at a particular  
location.